

REMARKS

Claims 9-12 remain pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following.

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to due to inclusion of reference numerals. The abstract has been amended to remove the reference numerals. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0046020 to Andreasson et al (“Andreasson”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 recites “said reader/writer is provided on a surface at a bottom of said storing section so that the entire storing section is a communications region.” Andreasson does not disclose this feature.

Andreasson discloses an arrangement wherein one or more antennas 464 are provided under a drawer compartment 440 or on sidewalls 468 of a dispensing station 410 (see Figs. 4A and 4B, and paragraphs 0062-0063). According to Andreasson, the entire drawer compartment 440 is not the communications region, but instead the only communications region is a region adjacent to the antennas 464. Claim 9 is therefore not anticipated by Andreasson.

Moreover, the invention according to claim 9 of the present application produces an effect of gathering en masse information of RF tags of all the commodities via contact-less communications between all the RF tags on exhibition plates and one antenna (see Specification paragraph [0060]). This realizes a speedy efficient stock management (see paragraph [0051]). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn and claim 9 allowed.

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andreasson in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0151336 to Freeman. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Freeman is cited for teaching input means and a display provided on an internal surface of the case cover, and for teaching a grip of disposing the mobile commodity case as externally provided. Freeman, however, fails to cure the above mentioned deficiencies of Andreasson with respect to claim 9. Claim 9 is allowable over the combination of Andreasson and Freeman. Claims 10-12 depend from claim 9 are also allowable over the combination of Andreasson and Freeman. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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